

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 FBO-02 PER-01 OPR-02 A-01

SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 FS-01 SCS-03

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/076 W

-----101858Z 110265 /45

O R 101756Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0498

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1932

PARIS FOR RFC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: AFSP ABLD AINF APER AO

SUBJECT: CONGEN LUANDA: STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES

1. A FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL, FORMERLY WITH CONGEN LUANDA AND NOW WITH EMBASSY LISBON, HAS RETURNED TO PORTUGAL AFTER NINETEEN DAYS (FEB 13-MAR 3) IN ANGOLA. HER REPORT ON THE STATUS OF CONGEN PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES FOLLOWS:

2. CONSULATE OFFICES: CONSULATE OFFICES WERE VACATED ON JAN 21 BY ORDER OF THE TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY. ALL FURNITURE AND OTHER PROPERTY WAS TRUCKED TO A WATERFRONT WAREHOUSE WHERE IT IS NOW PROTECTED BY A GOVERNMENT GUARD. FSL RAUL DIAS TOOK INVENTORY OF ALL GOODS BUT DID NOT OBTAIN A VALIDATION OF THE INVENTORY FROM ANGOLAN OFFICIALS. HE WAS NOT GIVEN A KEY TO THE WAREHOUSE. DIAS WILL DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF WAREHOUSE RENT WITH THE TRANSPORTATION MINISTER WHEN THE LATTER RETURNS FROM ABROAD.

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3. CONSULATE SAFE: BOTH WALK-IN SAFES IN CONSULATE WERE OPENED BY FSL'S IN LATE JAN. NO ANGOLAN OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT. FSL'S THREW A PISTOL THEY FOUND IN THE SAFE INTO THE SEA AND BURNED ALL REMAINING FILES.

4. COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

LEFT BEHIND IS BEING DISMANTLED BY ANGOLAN TECHNICIANS.

5. UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY: THE ONLY CONSULATE PROPERTY STILL UNOCCUPIED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS A THIRD FLOOR SECRETARIAL APARTMENT ON THE AVENIDA MARGINAL. SEVEN FORMER CONSULATE SERVANTS ARE NOW LIVING THERE.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: MUCH OF THE MAIL BEING SENT TO LUANDA IS DELAYED OR APPARENTLY LOST IN TRANSIT. IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT TO REGISTER ALL FUTURE MAIL TO DIAS.

7. SALARIES AND EXPENDITURES: THE LAST \$5,000 SENT TO THE CONSULATE TO PAY FOR EXPENSES HAS BEEN SPENT. ADDITIONAL MONEY SHOULD BE SENT. FSL'S RUFINO, GONCALVES, AND INACIO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CASH THEIR SALARY CHECKS FOR THE LAST FIVE PAY PERIODS DUE TO CURRENCY CONVERSION PROBLEMS. SEVEN OTHER CONSULATE EMPLOYEES, MOST OF THEM MAIDS, EXPERIENCED SOME HARDSHIP OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS. THEY ASK THAT THEIR SITUATION BE REGULARIZED.

8. UNCERTAINTY: THE CONSULATE EMPLOYEES REMAINING IN LUANDA ARE ALL UNCERTAIN AS TO THEIR FUTURE AND SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

9. ADDITIONAL REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
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